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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1623

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 5576-132

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Maruyama
Serial No. 09/963,738
Filed: September 26, 2001
For: BASE MATERIAL FOR DRY DIRECT TABLETING COMPRISING LOW
SUBSTITUTED HYDROXYPROPYL CELLULOSE

Confirmation No. 9282
Group Art Unit: 1623
Examiner: E. White

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December 11, 2003

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Sir:

Pursuant to 35 USC §134, 37 CFR 1.191, and MPEP §1205, the Applicant in the above-identified patent application hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the Office Action dated June 12, 2003, at least twice rejected or finally rejecting Claims 1-21.

- Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,280.00 including the Appeal fee as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(b).
- Payment by credit card is requested. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is enclosed.
- Also enclosed: _____

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330.00 OP

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Page 2 of 2

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0220. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawna Cannon Lemon
Registration No. 53,888

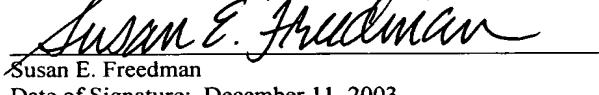
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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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Date of Deposit: December 11, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Susan E. Freedman

Date of Signature: December 11, 2003